

**Questions for the Record following the Ways and Means Full Committee Hearing Entitled
“Pathways to Universal Coverage.”**

These questions are for Tricia Neuman, Director of the Program on Medicare Policy at the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, and Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, Managing Director at Manatt Health.

There are currently more than 60 million Americans aged 50-64, a significant number of whom are un- or underinsured. My bill, the Medicare Buy-In and Health Care Stabilization Act, would allow people in that age group to buy into Medicare, offering them another option to get quality, affordable health insurance. Why is the 50-64 population particularly vulnerable in the current private insurance market, and why would a Medicare buy-in make sense to offer them relief?

While Medicare is an amazing and often life-saving program, we know that it is not perfect. In addition to discussing how we might best expand coverage and ensure all Americans are able to get the health care they need, we should also consider what we could do right now to strengthen and improve the existing Medicare program for the millions of seniors who currently benefit from it. Where do some of the current gaps in Medicare coverage exist, and what can Congress do to improve this program to make sure no senior ever has to go without needed care?